

SAFER TIMES

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THE SAN FRANCISCO RETROFIT PROJECT OVERVIEW

Here is an update on three major Caltrans earthquake retrofit projects in San Francisco.

THE WEST SPAN

Retrofit work on the suspension portion of the Bay Bridge from Yerba Buena Island to the San Francisco Anchorage began in Summer 1998. Work on the piers and center anchorage was completed in early 2000, while the work on the towers and superstructure will continue through Summer 2004.

THE WEST APPROACH

The West Approach Project begins at the Fifth Street ramps on I-80, and extends east to the Anchorage at Beale Street where the West Span Project ends. Work began in Summer 2003, and will continue until mid-2009.

THE CENTRAL FREEWAY

The demolished elevated Central Freeway (Hwy 101) connected I-80 with central San Francisco at Fell Street. The Central Freeway Replacement Project consists of replacing the structure between South Van Ness Avenue and Fell Street with a new ramp that touches down at Market Street and a boulevard along Octavia Street between Market Street and Fell Street. The project began in Winter 2003 and is scheduled for completion in early 2005. For more information on the Central Freeway, you can visit the project Website at www.octaviacentral.org.



THE WEST APPROACH TO THE BAY BRIDGE IN SAN FRANCISCO

Major construction has begun along the corridor of the West Approach. Daily ramp, street or lane closures occur during non-commute hours, while complete street closures are only allowed on weekends. Major ramp and roadway closures will be minimized by the construction of interim structures to carry traffic through the project.

Caltrans and its contractors are working to replace the mainline freeway and the ramps of the West Approach. The north side Fremont Street off-ramp demolition is the most recent example of the progress being made on this project. The ramp was removed and the new connector to Fremont Street was opened over

"Retrofitting a major freeway without closing it to traffic is like rebuilding your car engine while driving down the highway."

*Jeff Weiss
Caltrans Spokesperson*

one weekend of work between April 23 and 26.

Freeway construction is also continuing along Perry Street between 2nd Street and 4th Street. In order to keep up with the tight and complicated construction schedule, an enormous amount of preparation is required before the freeway

and new ramps are constructed. Old roadway, not in use, is being removed, while new support columns and upgraded utility lines are being installed. Caltrans is working closely with the contractors to make sure that traffic is accommodated while erecting the new structures.

NOISE AND DEMOLITION

The West Approach replacement is being done in close proximity to businesses and residences. Caltrans and the contractor must employ unique construction methods in order to minimize disruption and assure safe completion of each phase of this work.

During the planning phase, Caltrans worked out a construction plan using input from the City and County of San Francisco and information gathered at public outreach meetings. Noise restrictions for construction and demolition work are enforced from the evening through the morning. Work hours for demolition and reconstruction of the West Approach are typically from 7am to 10pm with some exceptions when the contractor must work for extended periods at the Bay Bridge West Anchorage.

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ROAD CLOSURES

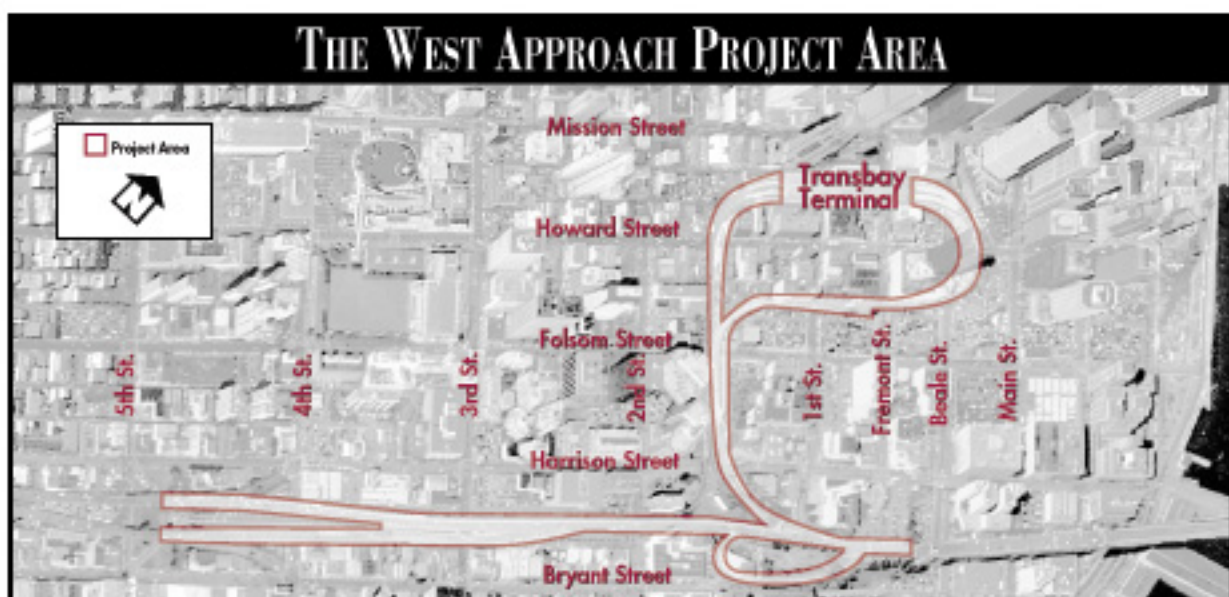
Weekday ramp and lane closures are scheduled to avoid commute periods. In the same manner, most of the major road closures will occur on the weekends. The weekend closures of freeway ramps and city streets typically begin Friday evenings at 8 pm and run through the weekend until Monday mornings at 5 am. This allows the daily commuters to enter and leave the city with less delay.

CALTRANS' COMMITMENT

Earthquakes are a certainty in the San Francisco Bay Area. It is not a question of if an earthquake occurs, but when it will happen. Our commitment to the people of the San Francisco Bay Area is to build and maintain a safe and efficient transportation system that they can depend on for their daily needs.

REACHING OUT TO THE COMMUNITY

For more information about this project, visit our website at: www.dot.ca.gov/dist4/safer, drop by our office located in the Transbay Terminal, 425 Mission Street, San Francisco, or call us at (415) 597-5895. You may also contact us to have a presentation of this project given to your community group or business.



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www.dot.ca.gov/dist4/safer

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